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African Union Launches Ag Growth Strategy

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Agricultural Situation

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Report Highlights:

On the margins of the January 2015 African Union summit, the AU launched the Implementation Strategy & Roadmap to achieve the 2025 vision on the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program. This overarching blueprint is intended to help guide the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities, member states the development community, the private sector and other stakeholders in working together to achieve the Malabo Declaration goal of transforming Africa's agriculture sector.

Strategy to Accelerate Africa’s Agricultural Growth:

On January 27, 2015, on the margins of the African Union summit in Addis Ababa, the AU officially [launched](#) the [Implementation Strategy & Roadmap](#) (IS&R) to achieve the 2025 vision on the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP). This overarching blueprint is intended to help guide the AU Commission (AUC), Regional Economic Communities (RECs), member states, development partners, and the private sector in realizing the [AU Malabo Summit Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared Prosperity and Improved Livelihoods](#) (see pages 52-58).

The Malabo Declaration contains seven key commitments to transform agriculture across the continent: (1) continue pursuing the values and principles of the CAADP process; (2) enhance public and private investment in agriculture; (3), end hunger in Africa by 2025; (4) halve poverty on the continent by 2025; (5) triple intra-African trade in agricultural commodities and services by 2025; (6) enhance resilience of livelihoods and production systems to climate variability and related risks; (7) strengthen mutual accountability to actions and results.

Following the Malabo Declaration from the June 2014 AU summit, the AUC and the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency held stakeholder consultations and conducted a validation workshop with the various development partners to develop an action blueprint, known as the IS&R, to achieve the above-mentioned Malabo commitments. The IS&R is not only linked with the Malabo commitments, but is also tied directly to the CAADP results framework as well as the regional and country-level plans. After conducting this outreach, the IS&R was submitted to the AU Executive Council for its consideration during the January 2015 AU summit. That same week, on the margins of the summit, the AU held an [ISR launch](#) event.

In the IS&R preamble, the two signatories of the document, the AUC Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, Madame Tumissime Peace, and NEPAD CEO, Dr. Mayaki, called on the various partners involved in transforming Africa’s agriculture sector to consider the IS&R as “*the* document to help us implement the necessary actions, produce results and impact, as well as ‘mutually account’ for our different committed actions.” The IS&R is organized under two main objectives: (1) transformed agriculture and sustained inclusive growth; (2) strengthened systemic capacity to implement and deliver results. Under each of these objectives are a series of 11 strategic action areas (SAA), with time-based milestones, which are intended to help ‘facilitate and guide practical actions’ to reach the 2025 goals, as outlined in the Malabo Declaration. The table below lists the 11 SAAs.

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Transformed agriculture | Strengthened systemic capacity to implement |
|-------------------------|---|

| and sustained inclusive growth | and deliver results |
|--|--|
| SAA 1a: Adopt measures to increase sustainable agricultural production and productivity in an inclusive manner | SAA 2a: Build and strengthen capacity for evidence-based planning, implementation, review and dialogue |
| SAA 1b: Market infrastructure, regional trade and integration, and value chains development | SAA 2b: Review and implement policy and institutional reforms that strengthen leadership, management and technical capacity in agriculture |
| SAA 1c: Increase resilience of livelihoods and production systems to climate variability and change and other shocks | SAA 2c: Strengthen local ownership and leadership to champion agriculture and CAADP agenda, align coordination and implementation partnerships |
| SAA 1d: Strengthen governance of land, water and other natural resources | SAA 2d: Enhance skills, knowledge and agricultural education |
| | SAA 2e: Strengthen data and statistics for evidence-based planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and review processes |
| | SAA 2f: Establish and institutionalize mutual accountability mechanisms with regular peer reviews and strong dialogue platforms |
| | SAA 2g: Identify and enhance innovative financing models for increased public and private sector finance for agriculture investments along the value chain |

Source: IS&R

The AUC and RECs are expected to take the lead in helping support and direct the implementation of the IS&R at a regional and continental level through harmonized policies, standards and regulations. Meantime, individual member states are primarily responsible and accountable for implementation of the IS&R at the country level. Development partners, private sector actors, farmer organizations and civil society and other members of the development community also have a role in implementing the IS&R.

To implement the IS&R, coordination is required across the various stakeholders, starting with the member countries, the AUC, RECs, and the various other development partners. One mechanism to assist in this coordination effort is the CAADP Partnership Platform (PP) where leaders from the AUC, RECs, member states, farmers organizations, the private sector and civil society come together to discuss issues related to CAADP implementation. In Commissioner Peace's [remarks](#) at the CADDP PP in late March 2015, she stressed the need for action on the IS&R, saying "It is now time to deliver! It is now time to walk the talk!" To ensure substantive progress is being made to achieve the IS&R targets, the CAADP Results Framework will be the vehicle for tracking progress.

According to the IS&R document, this strategic blueprint differs from the last 10 years of CAADP in at least seven ways. Among these differences are the following noteworthy items: technical on-the-ground capacity building is needed to address systemic bottlenecks that hamper development; the SAA's are options (i.e. not mandatory) for countries to consider when formulating priorities; the domestic private sector is an essential component in driving Africa's agricultural transformation forward; and tracking and monitoring progress is important in ensuring accountability and progress.

